

The Heterodyne

Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association

May Meeting

**“All Things Field Day”
by Jim Peterson, K6EI**

**Wednesday May 14
Meeting Starts at 7pm**

Meeting Location:
American Red Cross
Silicon Valley Chapter
2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Dr
(southwest corner) in San Jose
Map at www.wvara.org/meetings.html

WVARA Repeaters (W6PIY)		
Band	Frequency	PL
6 Meters	52.580- MHz	151.4 Hz
2 Meters	147.39+ MHz	151.4 Hz
1.25 Meters	223.96- MHz	156.7 Hz
0.70 Meter	441.35+ MHz	88.5 Hz
0.23 Meter	1286.2- MHz	100 Hz

Club Net

WVARA's club net is on the W6PIY repeaters each Tuesday at 8:30 pm. All repeaters are linked together during the net. The net script can be found at www.wvara.org/net.html.

Visitors Are Welcome!

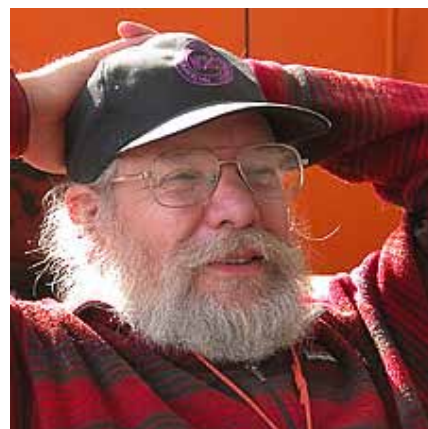
President's Letter

Electronic Construction

Hams enjoy a unique privilege here in the US. As a ham, you can design and build a radio. You can put it on the air without passing through any government approval process. No other radio service has this privilege. In the early days, design and build was the only way hams could get on the air. Later on designs were published and people used published designs to build their radios. You can still build radios from designs published in CQ, QST, QEX and the Radio Amateur's Handbook, among others.

As a practical matter, if you design and build your own radio, it would be a good idea to check its output to make sure it is within the limits required by commercial radios. If it isn't clean, you will probably hear about the problems from your fellow hams on the air.

As ham radio evolved, companies like Heathkit made it possible for anyone who could follow directions to build a good quality radio. Many of us have bought a radio kit, built it, and put it on the air. The kit manufacturer has checked the design and made sure it is a good citizen on the air. These radio kits range from 100mw QRP kits to those that will run near legal power. They range in difficulty from “no solder” kits which are mostly mechanical assembly to



kits where you solder every component in the radio. With any of them, you learn how the radio goes together and have better knowledge of how to adapt the radio to your operational needs and to fix it should it break.

Another advantage to kit radios is better manufacturer support. Most kit manufacturers are happy to supply parts and advice for their kits. This is quite different from the manufacturer of the radio I installed in my Miata, who won't supply either an extension microphone cable, or the non-standard connectors needed to construct one. See the February 2012 Heterodyne for details of the installation.

At our monthly meeting in June, we will be assembling a simple kit. These kits are both inexpensive, so everyone can afford to buy one, and simple enough to build in an evening. I hope everyone who is curious about electronic construction will buy and build a kit, learn the joy of construction and reap the reward of the improved knowledge of the technology building it brings.

73, Bill - AE6JV

About the Presentation All Things Field Day

Mark your calendar. This Wednesday's WVARA meeting (7pm, May 14) will be our annual "All Things Field Day". Field Day last year was a real hoot, and this year may be even more fun. At this week's meeting we will review what's new and discuss our plans for this year's Field Day event (to be held June 27-29).

Meeting Location: Silicon Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross, 2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Drive (southwest corner) in San Jose. Visitors are welcome!

If you haven't been to the Red Cross, "talk-in" is usually available on the Association's repeaters. Best choice would be 2m/220.

And for those who are hungry, several of us will be eating dinner prior to the meeting. This month we'll be meeting for Chinese food at Ume (2595 North First Street, at the corner of W Trimble and First St.) at 6:00pm. (Note: our old dinner location, Carl's Jr, has closed.)

Club Web Page: www.wvara.org

Hope to see you there!

Jim Peterson, K6EI

Vice President and member of the WVARA Speaker Selection Committee

Our Flea Market Effort

Hello everyone,

Speaking as a member and Director of the Association, I would like to offer a hearty THANK YOU to all who participated in yesterday's Flea Market activity. From what I could see, it was very successful and I look forward to hearing the financial report at our next meeting.

Not everyone is aware that the Electronics Flea Market is administered by the Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations (A.S.V.O.R.O.) and the task of "concessionaire" is rotated among the various clubs, societies and associations in our area.

See <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/schedule>

Putting on the Flea Market is a formidable task, and represents a significant initial cash outlay, especially for volunteer organizations, and I was pleased to see so many people stepping up to help.

Some of the positions involve very early hours on a Saturday morning, but there were people who stepped forward to participate. Equipment was acquired, usage of a van and truck were donated, a tent was erected, a generator was fueled, entry fees were collected, coffee was brewed and donuts, drinks and water were sold. And at the end, four of us blanketed the area with plastic bags picking up trash.

I spent most of my time at the cash drawer between the donut boxes and coffee station and I got to see several of our members participate in dispensing of products to all of our customers, many of whom had nothing smaller than a \$20 bill. Cheerfulness abounded, except for one or two grouches, but that is to be expected with this crowd.

Each person who volunteered (in whatever task) played a very important role in the success of this, our primary fund-raising event for the year, and should be proud of the work that was accomplished.

So in summary, THANK YOU to everyone!

Dave Schultheis
WB6KHP
Director WVARA

WVARA Net Check-Ins (W6PIY)					
Each Tuesday at 8:30 PM					
All Repeaters Linked Together During Net					
Call Sign	Name	04/15/14	04/22/14	04/29/14	05/06/14
AB6XS	Kevin		X	X	X
AG6HE	Dennis		X		
K6BMC	Tony			X	
K6BRF	Bert	X	X	X	X
K6WAR	Bill				X
KD6VOR	Marv	X	X	X	X
KE6BCS	Paul	X			
KF6EMB	Svend		X	X	X
KF6OTD	Gwen		X		X
KJ6CQJ	Dean		X		
KJ6GMO	Sue		X		
KJ6ZZI	Michael				X
KK6GXH	David				X
KK6VF	Kevin	NET	NET	NET	NET
KS6PD	Steve	X			X
W6ESL	Tom		X	X	X
W6HOC	Howard	X	X	X	X
W6PK	Phil				X
WA6QYS	Lou		X		X
WB6KHP	Dave	X	X	X	X
TOTAL		7	13	9	15

WVARA Field Day T-shirts

We have decided to have a batch of customized WVARA Field Day T-shirts made. The T-shirt's design is of the moon rising over Mora Hill with lettering that reads: "West Valley Amateur Radio Assoc Field Day Team".

The cost per T-shirt will be \$15. We'll be taking orders and collecting payments at next Wednesday's WVARA meeting.

- Jim, K6EI



New Member

Please welcome Clayton Nall, NF1R to WVARA!

Picnic at Baylands - August 16

It's official: We've reserved Pickleweed (next to the remote-controlled aircraft) for our WVARA Picnic/BBQ on August 16.

Jim, K6EI

Morse Musings

If you take a Morse code number and read it backwards, the result is also a number. The sum of the two numbers is either 10 or 0.

Found and contributed by Bill AE6JV

Items For Sale By George, N6NKT:

Hy-Gain TH-7DX, 7 Element, Tri-Band, 10/15/20M \$300

Manual available at <http://www.hy-gain.com/support.php?productid=TH-7DX>
Down from Palo Alto ARC office, disassembled and located in Cupertino

KLM KT-34, 4 Element, Tri-Band, 10/15/20M \$200

Boonton 92EA RF Voltmeter \$200

Contact George Williams, N6NKT, n6nkt at yahoo dot com

Send Buy and Sell information to: het_editor at wvara dot org

2014 West Valley Amateur Radio Association Board

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See You At The Meeting!